

## Whitehills & District Community Council

Minutes of the monthly meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2016  
in Whitehills Library at 6.30pm.

**Present:** Ross Balharry (Chairman), Anne Balharry, Stuart Ironside, Duncan Leece, Bill Bain, Alistair Wiseman, Alan Stewart, Mick Moloney, Robert Mackie and Mattie Verster.

**Also attending:** Cllr Mike Roy, Cllr John Cox and Cllr Iain Taylor.

**Apologies:** Chas Findlay and Jan Emery from Ab Council (Banff and Buchan).

Ross gave a special welcome to the new Cllr Iain Taylor and congratulated him on his recent election.

### **Police Issues:**

PC MacRae (A1741) said there were no issues to report.

- The committee asked if it was possible to identify between Banff and Whitehills in the police report Ross had emailed to the members. PC Macrae said he would pass on the request.
- A member said there is an old building near the harbour with broken windows and PC Macrae said the WDCC can let the owner know so that he may clear it up.
- Concern was mentioned that parking around the public hall and at the corners of Reidhaven and Seafield Streets at certain times makes access difficult and would not allow for the fire brigade to pass in the event of an emergency. PC Macrae said there was no way to enforce the traffic rule unless there were official signs up. Bill will speak to Alistair Millar about signs.

**Minutes of the meeting 20 October 2016**, were approved as correct, proposed by Alan and seconded by Bill.

### **Matters Arising:**

- Remembrance Services went well. Thanks to those who attended and to Duncan for the tea and scones at the Boyndie Centre.
- There have been no further complaints of nuisance problems at the Bull Ring. The Ab Council said they would be loath to change it back to a car park.
- The new Whitehills and Boyndie website is ongoing. Anyone wanting to add their details to please contact Mattie.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Anne said there was little to report. Payment was made for the cleaning of the Red Well and for the teas after the Remembrance service leaving a balance of £4353.45 in the current working account.

From the Windfarm account a cheque for £7232.13 was given to the Parent Council of Whitehills School for the Wildlife Garden project and a cheque of £1740 was given towards the ordering of the Whitehills Community Defibrillator. Nicola Gatt and her team are responsible for running the defibrillator. Alan said there is a meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October to get things going as soon as possible. A cheque of £500 was made out to Whitehills Parish Church for the website and minutes that Mattie does. Anne will give the Public Convenience volunteers a Christmas gratuity as done last year.

The Gift Account Bank balance now stands at £ 31581.08 and the Windfarm Community Fund balance stands at £63383.52.

**Meeting with Alison Arrowsmith and Elaine McGowan re Windfarm applications from - a) Parent Council for Wildlife Learning Garden and - b) Whitehills School for sound and lights system.**

Ross and Duncan met with Alison and Elaine and explained the WDCC have approved the Windfarm application for the Wildlife Learning Garden. Maybe they can apply again in the future for the sound and light equipment which they can borrow in the mean time.

The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), which Jan Emery from Aberdeenshire Council is involved in, will be available to the school and community. It is not certain what is involved but if there is to be all weather playing fields, a suggestion was made that the existing football field be used to save money as it already belongs to the Ab. Council. The WDCC are not involved but want to ensure that money is used properly. Cllr Mike suggested Ross write and ask what MUGA is all about. Ross will write to Elaine asking to be kept updated.

### **Whitehills/Ladysbridge pathway Update**

A meeting was held regarding construction, insurance cover and the subsequent monitoring requirement. It is hoped that the contractors will get started by the end of November. Small changes were made to the original plans such as mesh fencing to stop dogs entering the parks and tarmac sections near the War memorial and where the farmer enters the park. An updated budget is awaited but can be afforded as the price was favourable. No signage or advertisements are allowed on the pathway. Once the path is constructed, a schedule for volunteer walkers to check the pathway regularly will be drawn up and written records kept.

### **The Terms of Establishment for Community Councils.**

Following an inquiry into the amount of Public Liability cover Community Councils have under the existing 'Terms of Establishment' pertinent to the new Whitehills/Ladysbridge pathway, it became apparent that there is an issue regarding Personal Liability on office bearers. The matter has been directed to Aberdeenshire Council's local Area Manager for further investigation.

### **Planning Issues**

No objections. The AB Council doesn't take the responsibility of care of a development if a developer goes, the residents need to take over the care.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **AOCB**

- Bill contacted Alistair Millar about yellow lines for certain roads in the village. Bill consulted with the people around the areas of concern. There is no need for lines, only common sense as the Highway traffic code states it is an offence to park within 10 meters of a junction. A final proposal was submitted to Alistair. The public is kindly reminded to uphold traffic rules.
- Christmas Lights: Robbie said permission was granted for 1 December to 16 January. Bill, Robbie and Stuart have offered to put lights up on Sunday 4 December from 9.30am. They have the use of the cage from Ian Rennie and Jimmy Forbes has once again offered his help with the hydraulic ramp.
- RAF Strike Wing Memorial: There is an open meeting with Alistair Millar next Wednesday 23 November, at 2.00pm at the memorial to discuss the possibility of moving the stone somewhere safer following the recent tragic fatality.
- A gentleman in the village had offered to clean up dead flowers in some of the flower barrels around the village. He was stopped by a member of the public who threatened to call the Police if he continued. Ross gave him permission to carry on and gave his phone number if needed.
- John Cox mentioned someone is looking into opening up the old railway line between Portsoy, Boyndie and Cornhill. This is a massive undertaking. WDCC members expressed interest in the project but will await further investigation.

**Date of Next Meeting** is 15 December, **6.30pm** in the Whitehills library.